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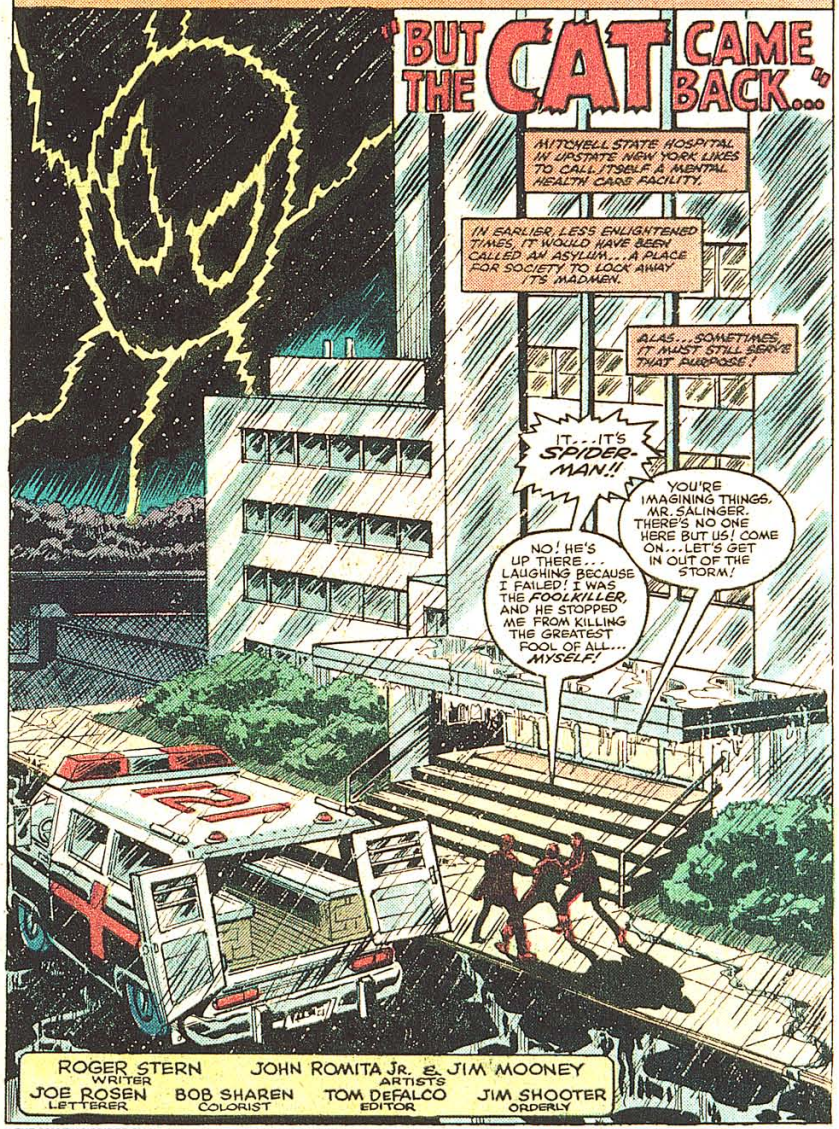

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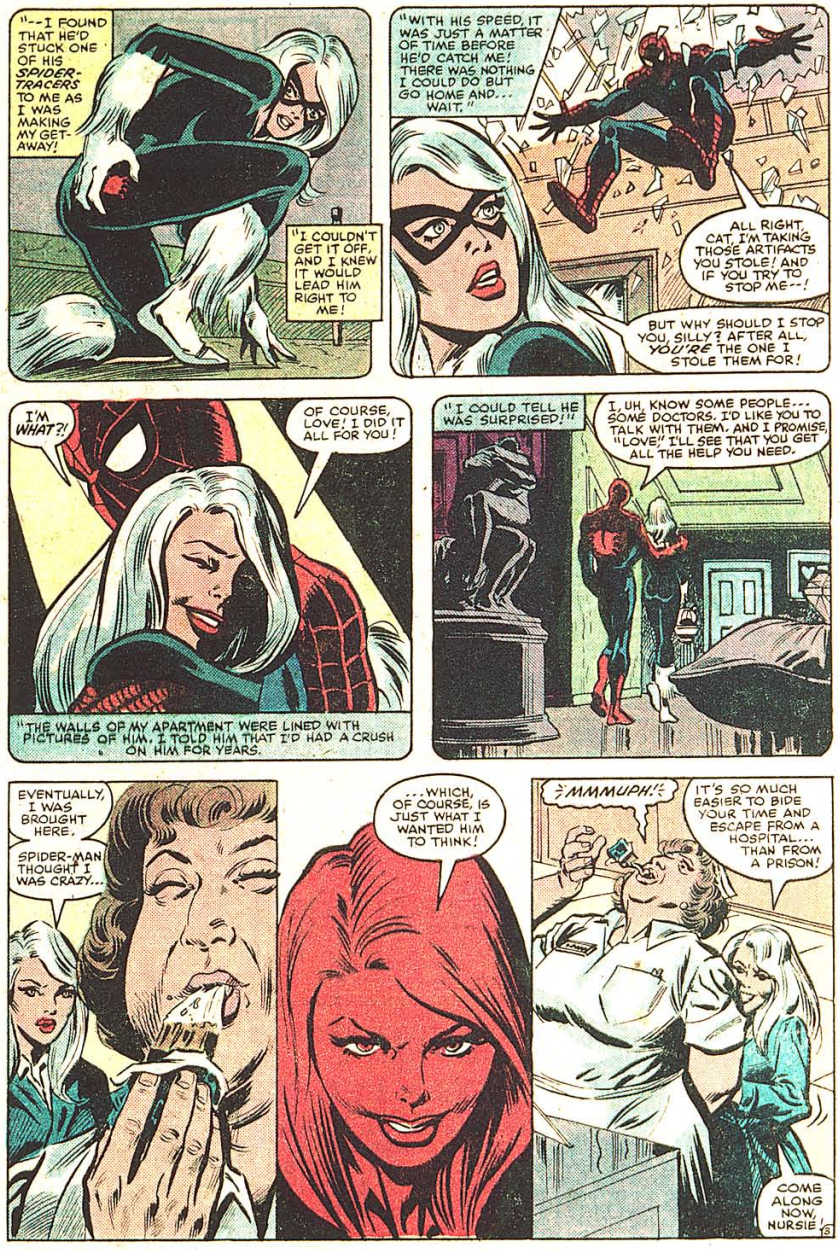

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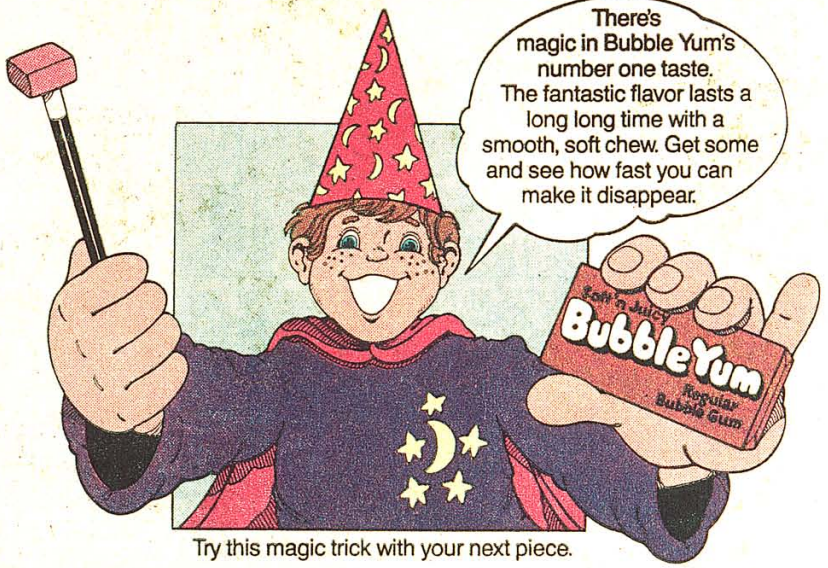
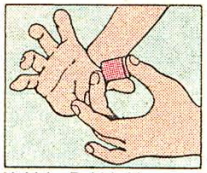
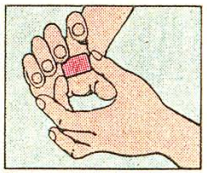
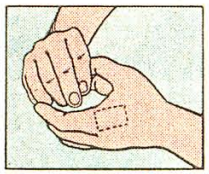
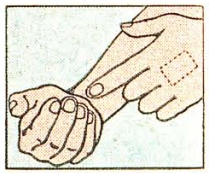


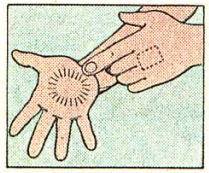
Try this magic trick with your next piece.

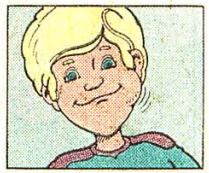

Hold the Bubble Yum between the thumb and middle finger of your left hand.


Pretend to grab it with your right hand while you really drop it into the palm of your left hand.


Keep the fingers of your right hand loose as if they had the gum.


Point with the left hand while you secretly hold the gum in your palm.


Say "Presto chango!" and open your right hand to show that the Bubble Yum has magically disappeared.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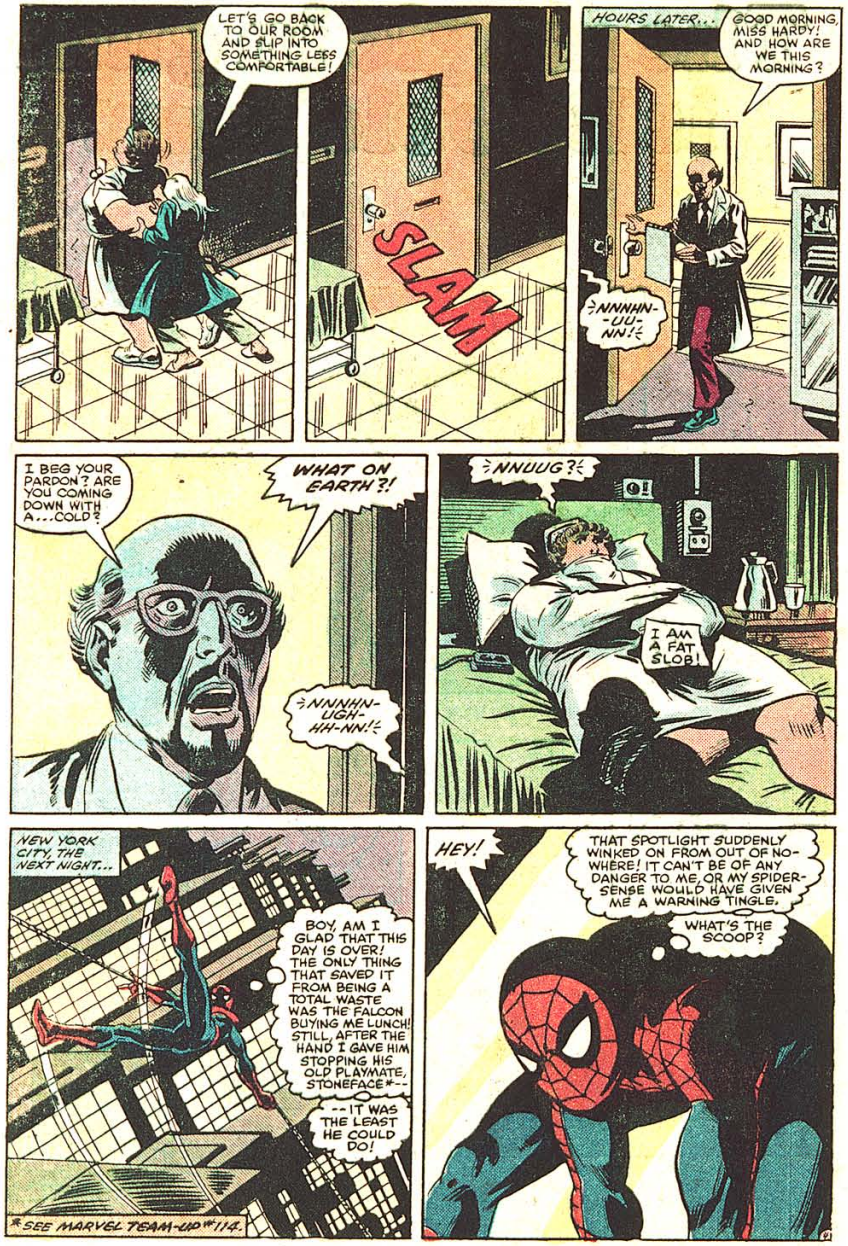

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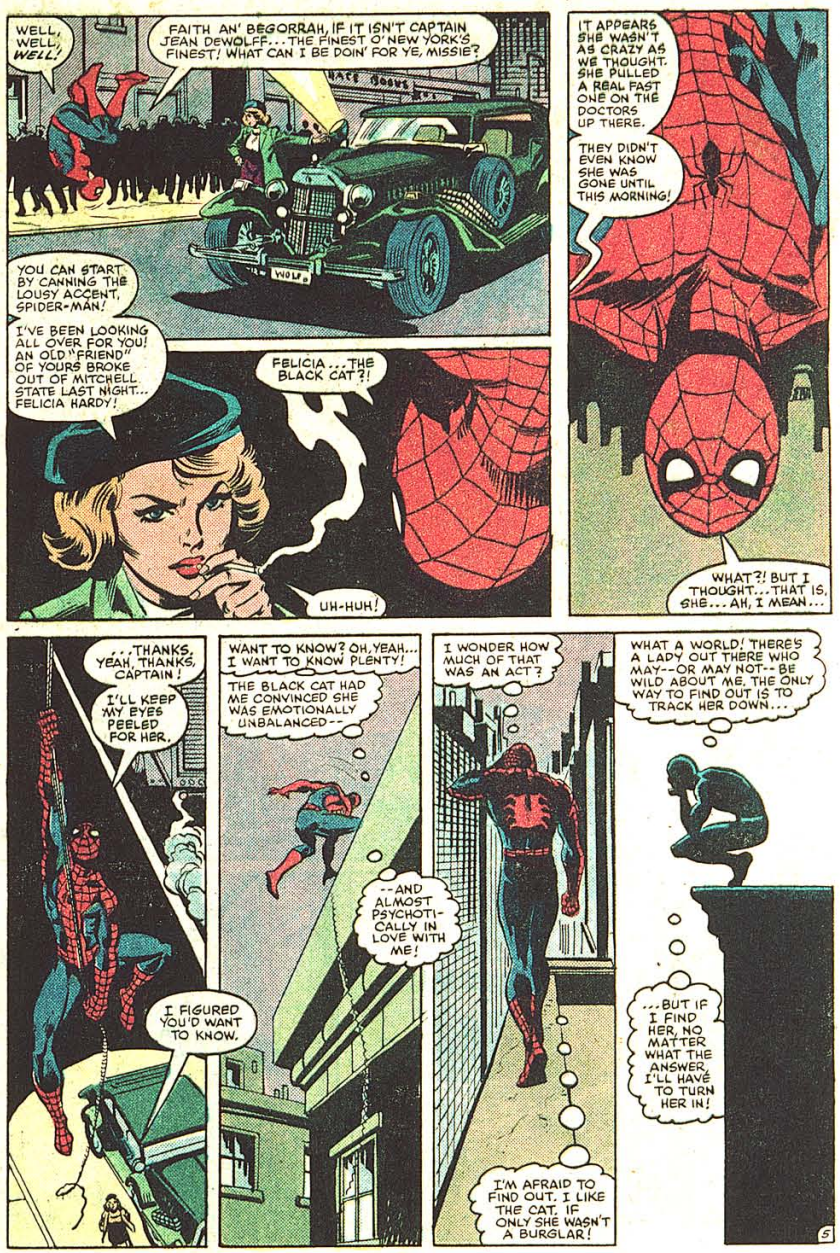

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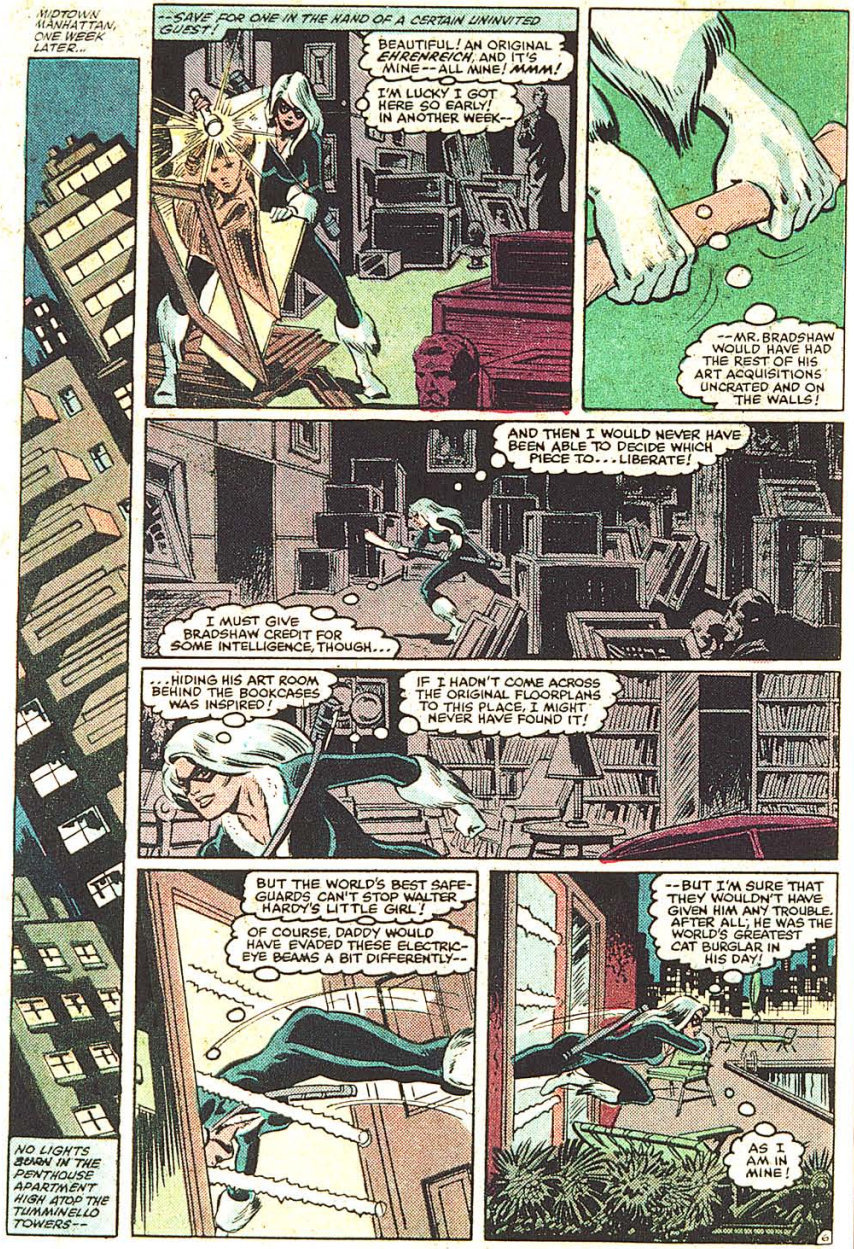

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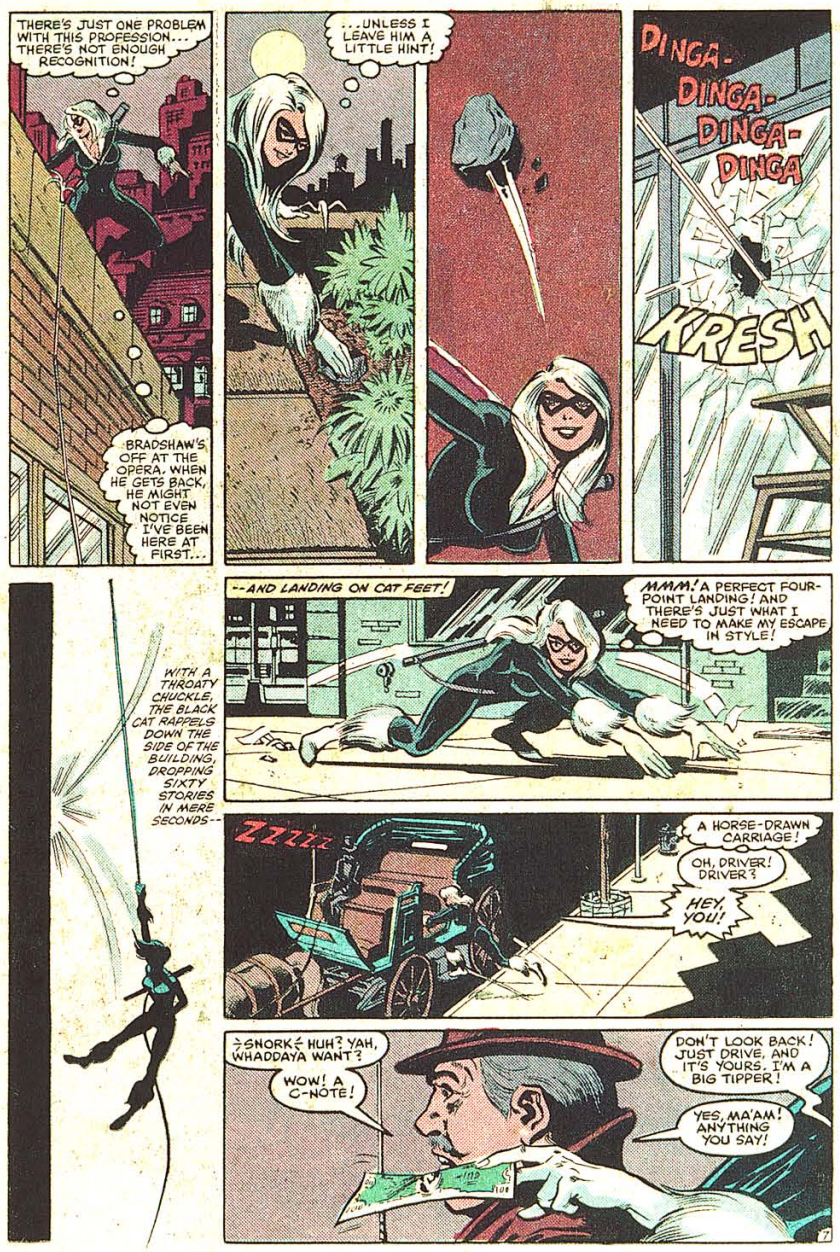

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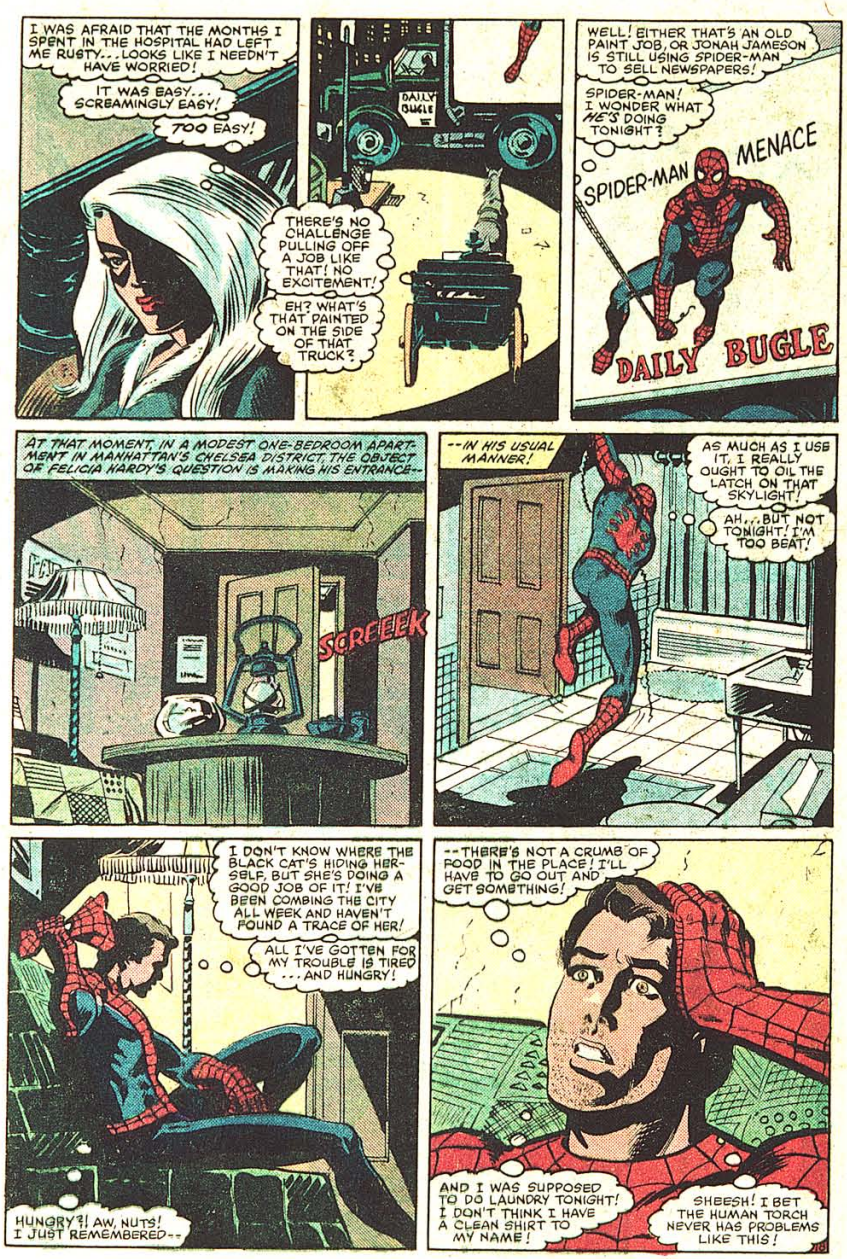

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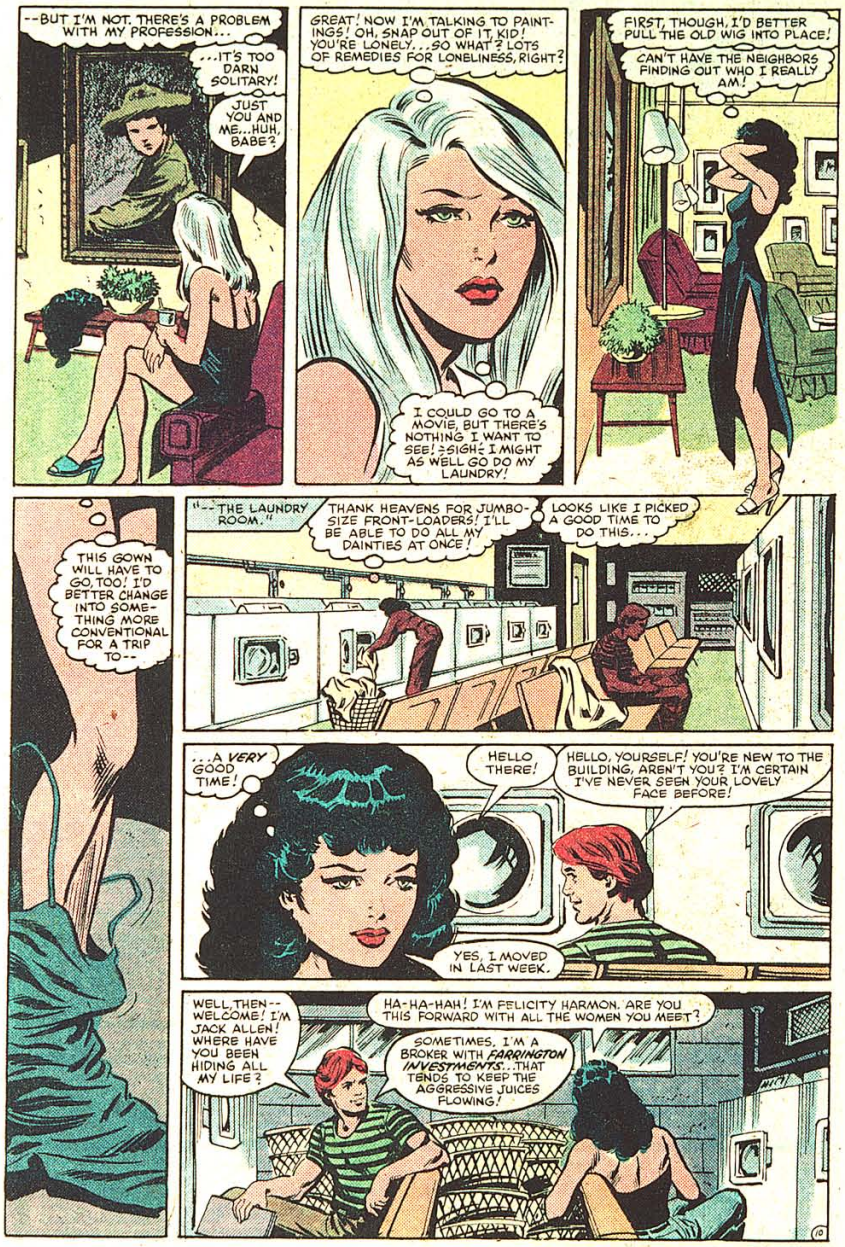

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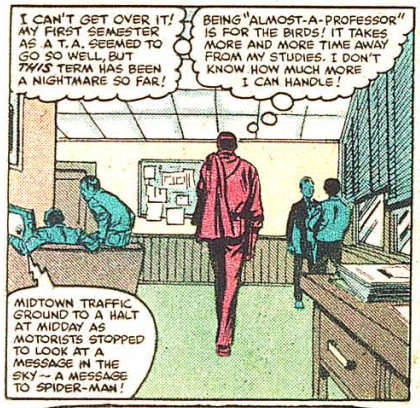

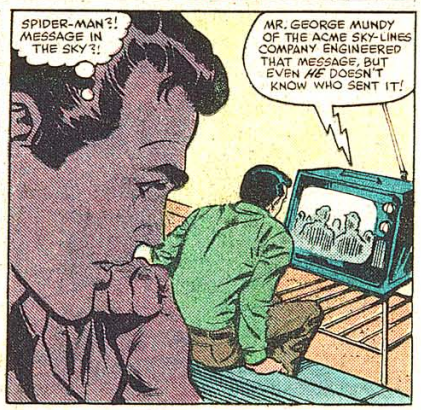

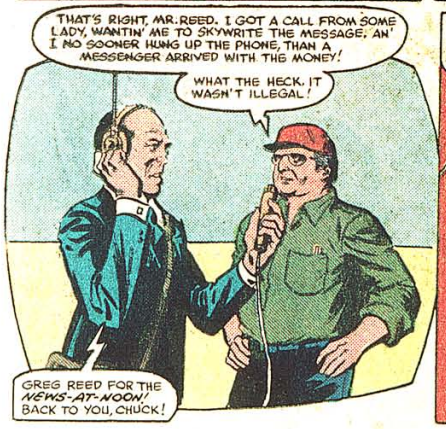

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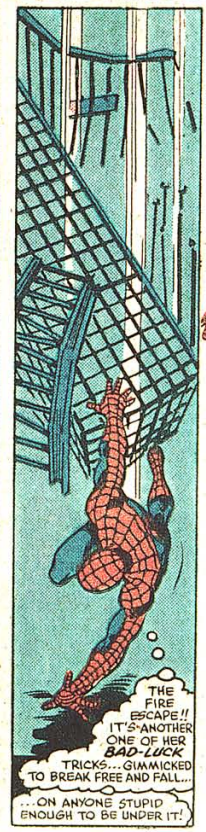

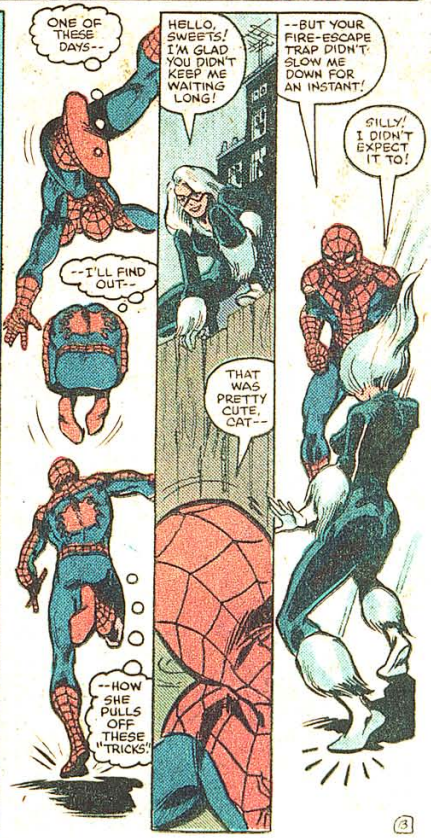

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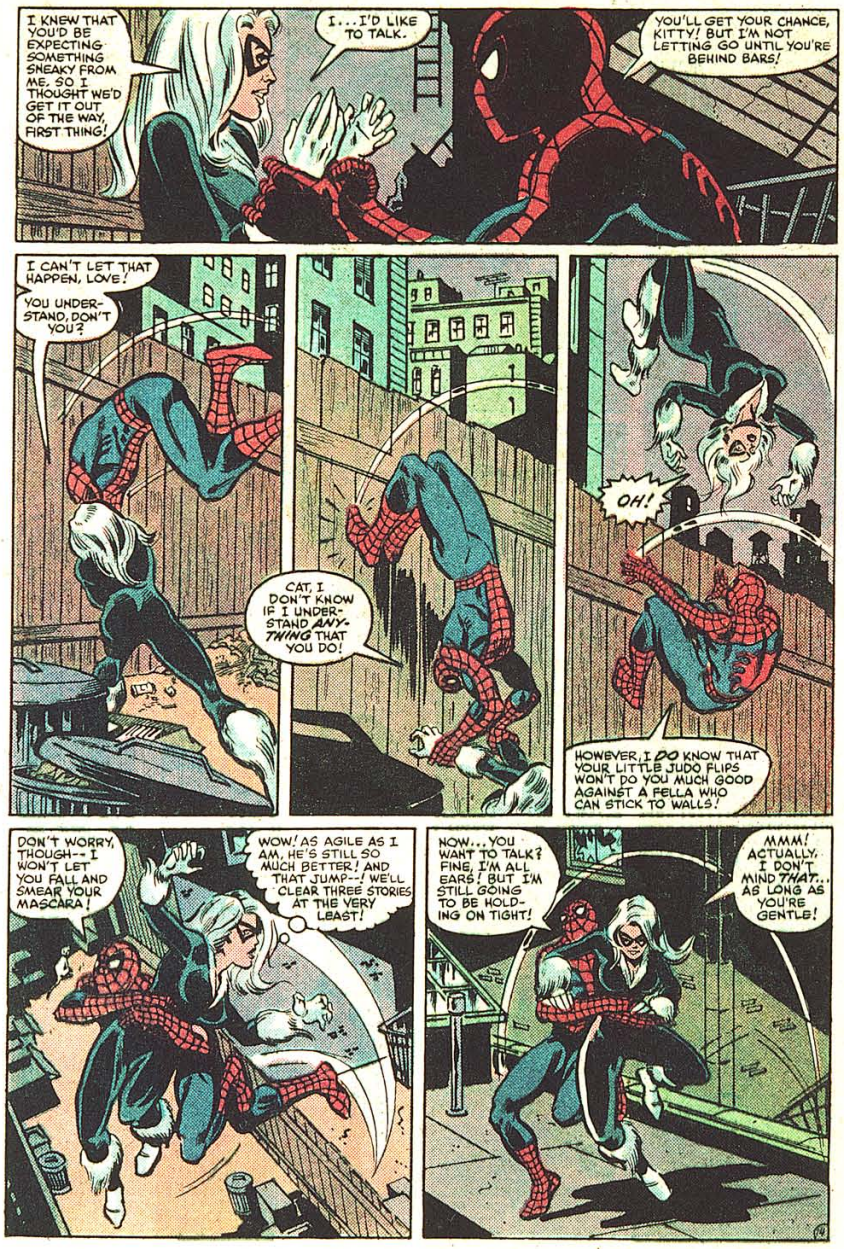

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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
MARK GRUENWALD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom,

Excellent! AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was excellent!

About the art: The cover was inspired! I loved everything about it — but who drew it? Also, the interior art was among the best I've ever seen in AMAZING.

About the story: It was easily one of the best I've ever read. Yeah, I know I'm coming on a little strong, but I just want you to know that I feel like reading this comic over and over again! It was most entertaining.

Bill Mantlo and Bob Hall make a very good team!

Keep it up!

John Brewer
4779 Wilde Drive
Colorado Springs, co 80916

Hey, if you like Bill and Bob as a team, Johnny, then look for SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #65 — on sale next month! For within those four-color pages, Mantlo and Hall are at it again!

(By the way, Broadway Bob Hall is also penciling the AVENGERS these days, in case you haven't noticed! He certainly gets around, doesn't he?)

And, as long as we're dishing out the credits, here's a tip of the ol' Spider-beanie to Walt Simonson, who skillfully rendered the speedy cover of Issue #222!

Dear Tom DeFalco,

Congratulations on your new position as editor of all the SPIDER-MAN titles. I know that we can expect greater cohesiveness soon. (How long until we can expect a cross-over story in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and MARVEL TEAM-UP?)

When the appropriate point is reached in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN reprints for MARVEL TALES, will you start integrating reprints of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN stories also?

Good luck on your new assignment. Cohesiveness is one of the reasons I prefer Marvel Comics over those other guys with the green rocks.

Rick S. Jones
11292 West 17B
Argos, IN 46501

Thanks for the congrats, Rick! In fact, thanks to all of the many Spiderphiles who sent their best wishes to me! They were most appreciated!

Now, as far as your questions go, Rick... no, any reprinting of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN yarns in MARVEL TALES is a long, long way off. Why? Because this very month, MARVEL TALES goes back to the beginning, reprinting the classic Lee & Ditko stories of yesteryear! (Here's your chance to collect those amazing stories at a reasonably inexpensive price!)

As for an AMAZING/SPECTACULAR/TEAM-UP cross-over... give us time! We may just surprise you!

Dear Tom,

Walt Simonson's cover to AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was a masterstroke. Having the Speed Demon whip up a flashy cyclone which not only uprooted Spider-Man, but also his logo, the Comics Code seal, the background webbing, the corner symbol, and all the rest was a most innovative idea. This was perhaps the greatest SPIDER-MAN cover since issue #113.

Hey, I thought Bob Hall had given up comics for the stage! I must say that he didn't do a bad job on the ol' Web-slinger. Bob's depiction of Willoughby-Peerless — a real camera store — was great.

I see that Bill remembered Peter Parker's current rivalry with Lance Bannon. Nice to see that you're already insuring unity among the Spider-titles.

Spider-Man must go through more mental anguish than any other character. Have you ever noticed the suicide rate amongst people who are much younger than Peter Parker, and who have considerably fewer problems than Spider-Man? Perhaps an encounter with someone attempting suicide would put Spider-Man in an interesting position...

Frank Titone
(address withheld
by request)

Perhaps, Frank. The suicide rate for young people is always much too high. In that respect, we'd hope that some folks might take a cue from Peter Parker. After all, his life — as you pointed out — is no bed of roses, but he still gets by.

Life may not always be easy, but it beats the alternative!

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Dear Tom,

The postal strike up here is in its sixth week, but a tentative settlement has been reached... so I'm gambling that things will be moving in a few days. Thus, I'm resuming my usual correspondence, and you have the honor of being the first Marvel Comic on my list.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was certainly a flashy item, wasn't it? The cover was delightful, what with the logo and so on being caught up in Speed Demon's wind. (Too bad it didn't sweep the UPC computer symbol out of the lower left-hand corner and off the page!)

Spider-Man's battle with the Speed Demon was interesting, though it tended toward the cuteness which has been too apparent in this title of late. For me, the highlight of the issue was the interplay of Jonah Jameson, and — what's more — Spider-Man's concern for his image. The public image of the costumed adventurer is often glossed over, but it is still important. It serves to either stroke the ego of the hero, or to smooth his path with the public and engender their co-operation (or both!). In Spider-Man's case, comments about his image are usually limited to his bemoaning what a rough break he gets. Here, he actually did something about it... or tried to.

Come to think of it, Peter should have a good idea of what public relations is all about, as he's been connected with the media since his high school days. Why doesn't he mount a campaign to improve his standing with the public? Sure, it would take a lot of time and effort away from being Spider-Man, but it could pay off later in increased ease of operations... not to mention a cheerier outlook on life by Mr. P. Parker.

T.M. Maple
(no street address given)
Toronto, Ontario

The public relations angle is an intriguing one, T.M. — even though it is a bit removed from Parker's usual area of expertise. He is just a freelance photog, after all, albeit one with a certain flair for showmanship. Still, one never knows...

Dear Tom,

I just finished reading AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222, and I think it was great. The cover illustration was great, as always!

I think you should have more guest-stars in SPIDER-MAN. Speaking of guest-stars, whatever happened to Nova? He hasn't been around in ages.

Ted May
1993 Burlewood
St. Louis, MO 63141

Nova isn't likely to appear anywhere in the future, Ted. In ROM #24, Richard Ryder was stripped of the powers he possessed as Nova, and transported back to his home in Flushing.

Dear Tom,

Whatever you do, keep Bill Mantlo turning out those SPIDER-MAN plots. AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #222 was indescribably great!

Kenny Dunckley
795 Grand Blvd.
Westbury, NY 11590

Not to worry, Ken! We have brother Bill chained to his typewriter... and when Al Milgrom isn't shoving ROM, HULK, or MICRONAUTS assignments under his nose, he is hard at work on SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN stories.

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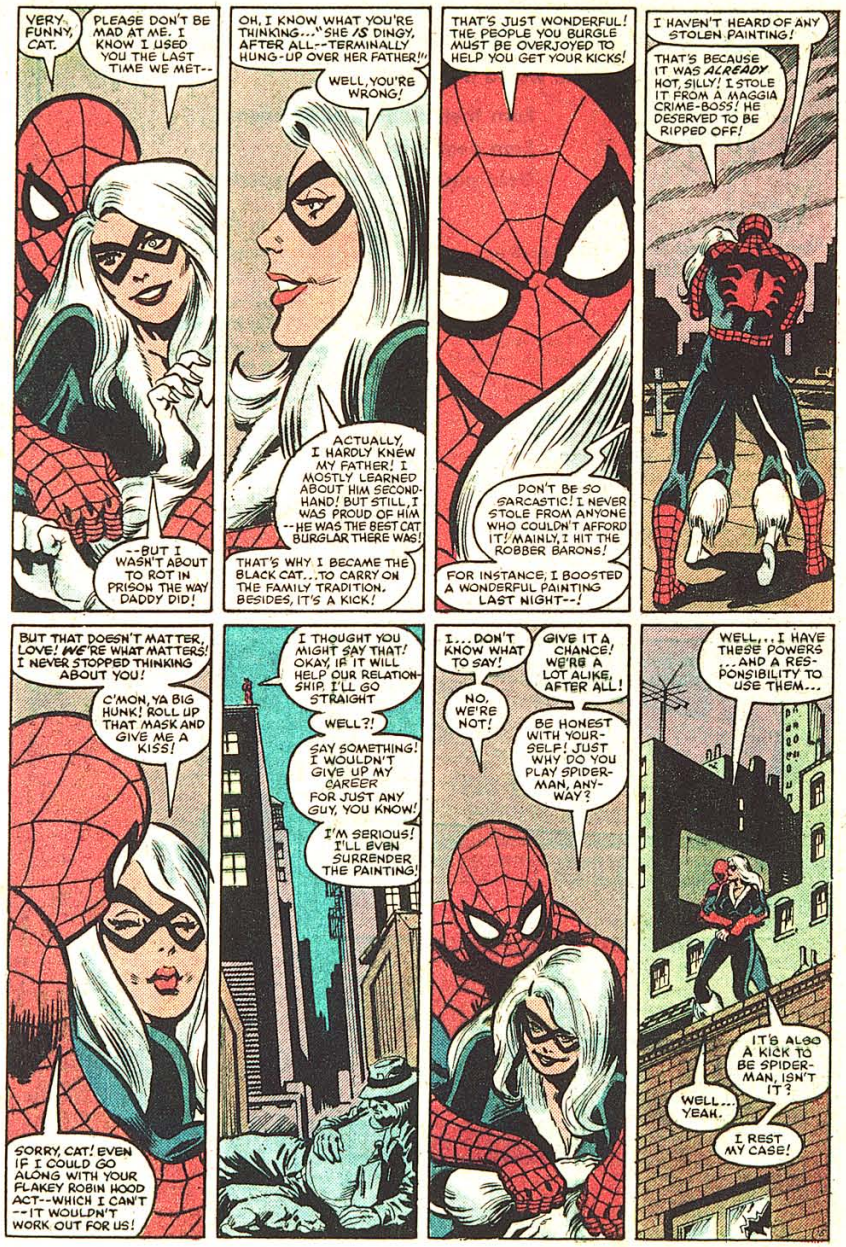

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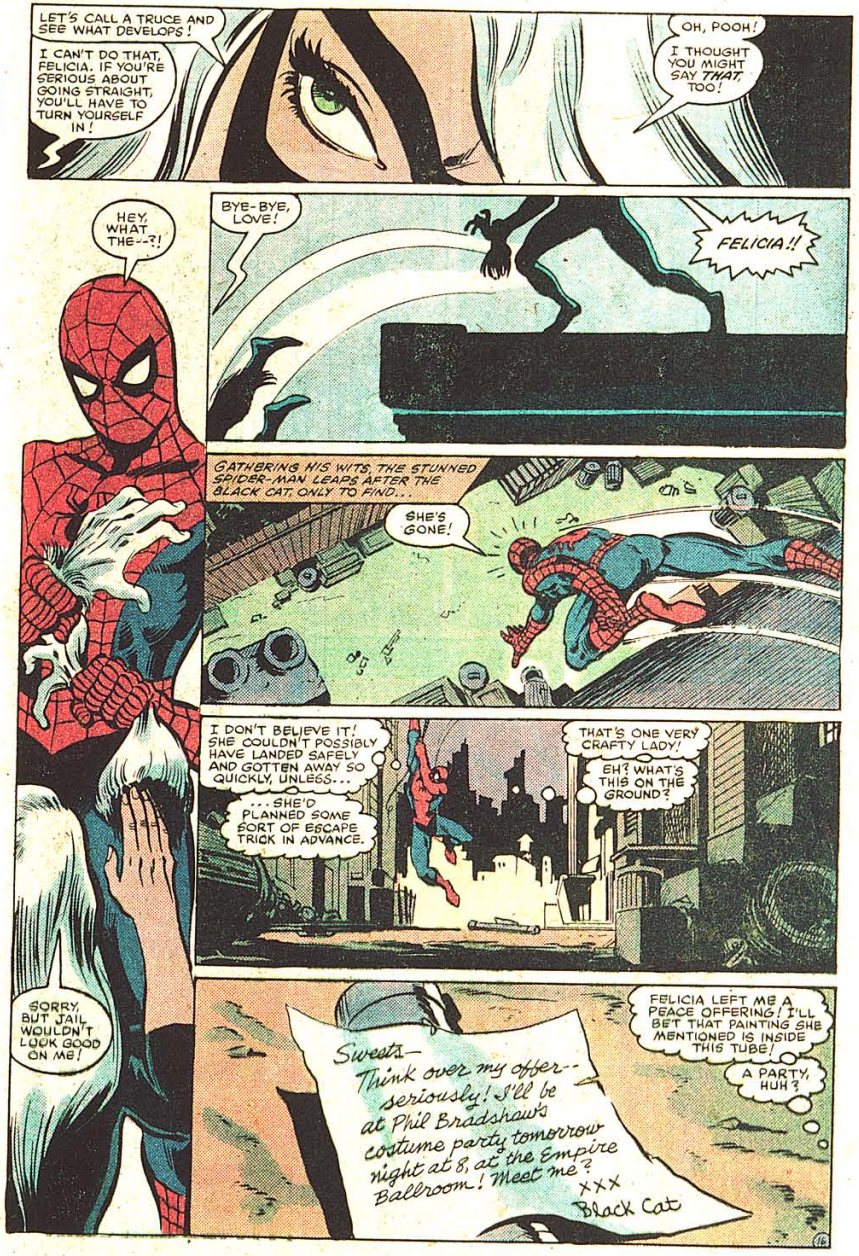

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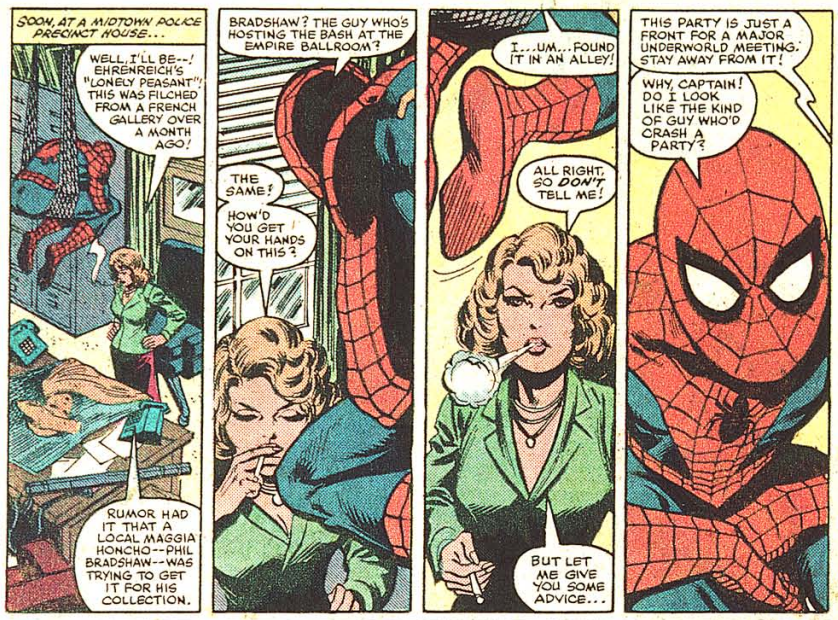

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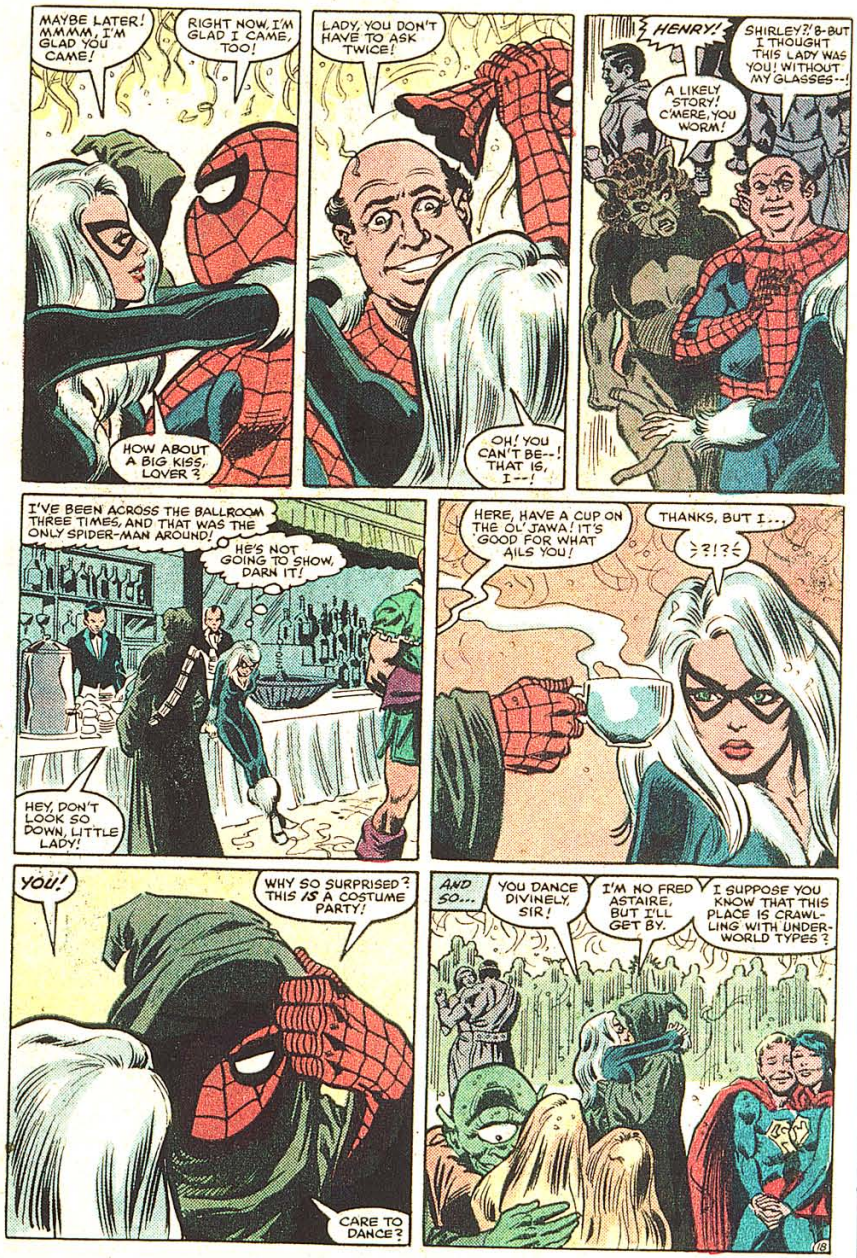

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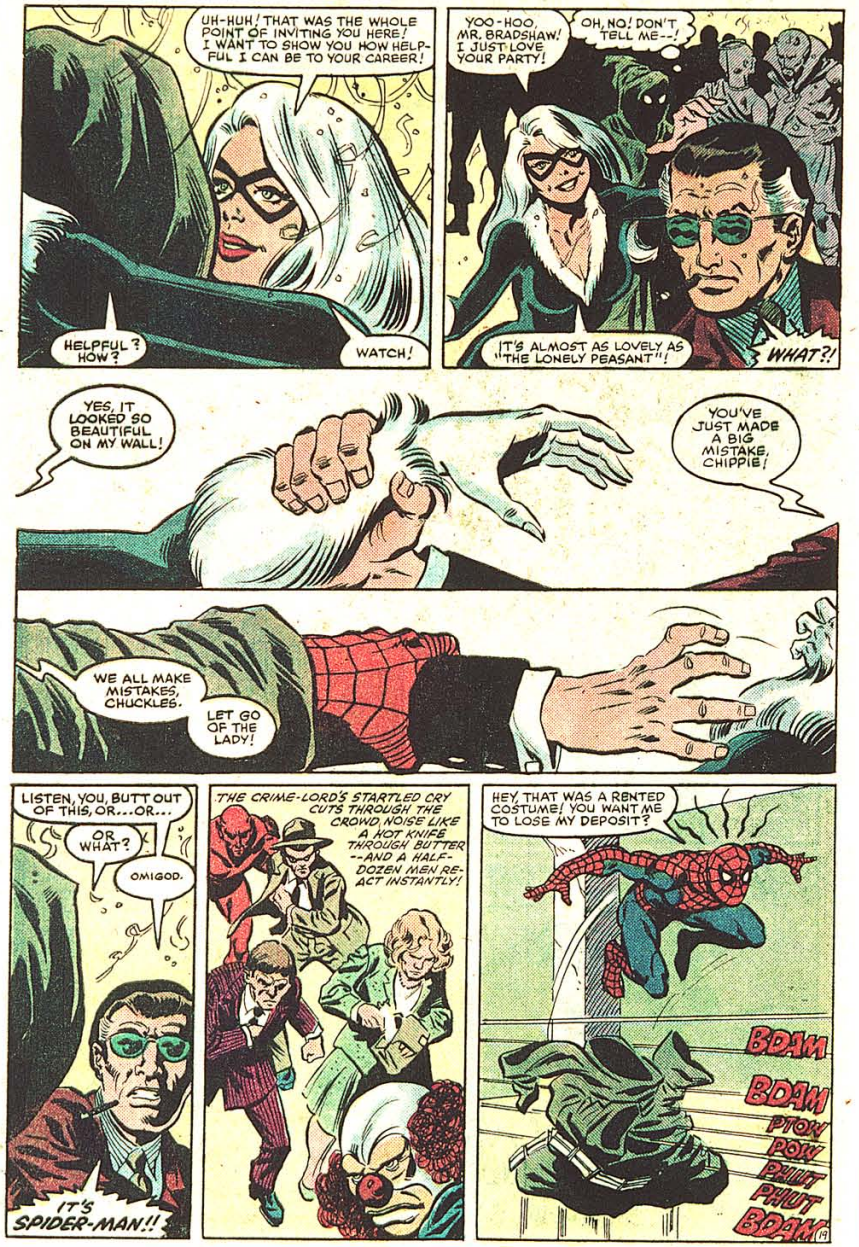

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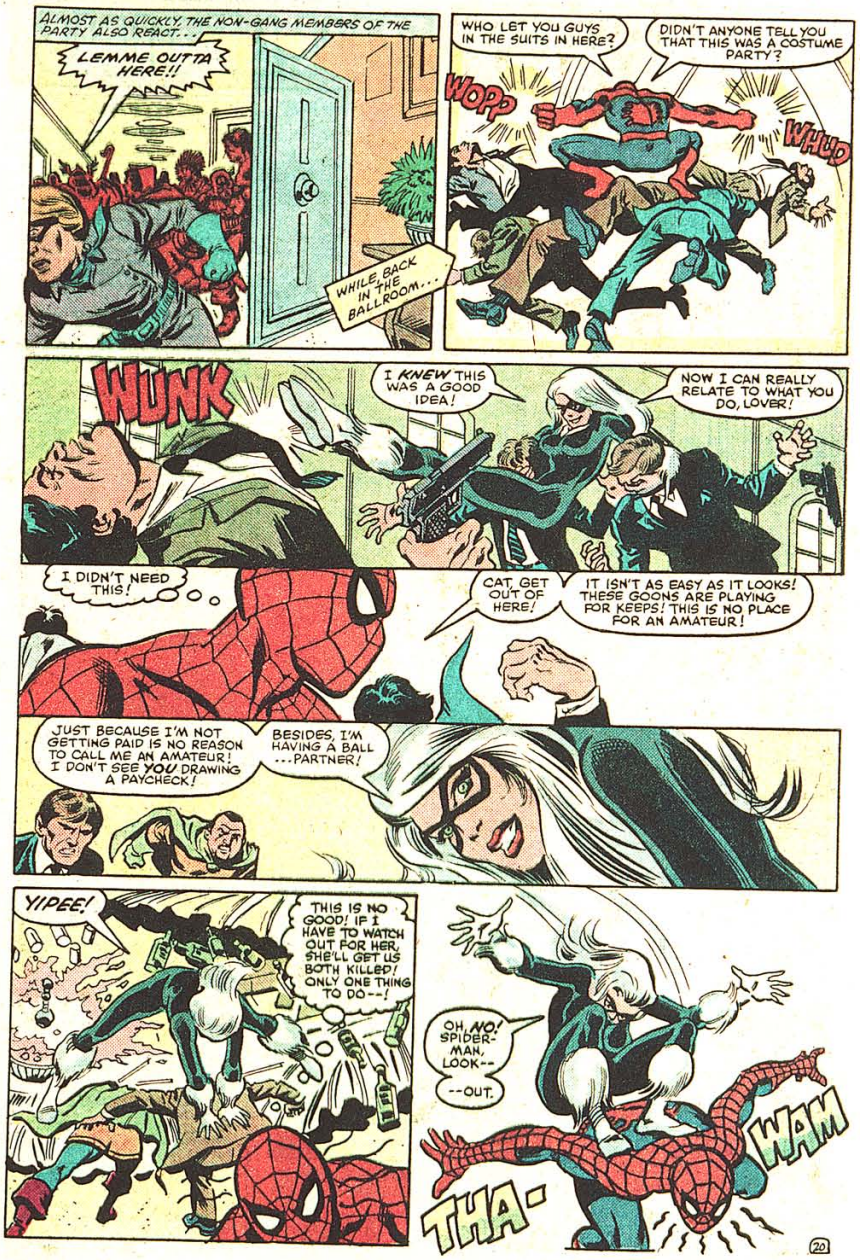

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BULLPEN BULLETINS

AND NOW, THE MOMENT YOU'VE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR...

As promised last month, I'm proud to present a bona fide picture of Louise Jones wearing the dreaded hat! Ta-da-a!

"Weezie"

Hi! Well, here I am, just like Jim said I'd be. That's the *last* time I ever admire one of his hats. Of course, it could have been worse — it could have been that silly crown he likes to wear when he's alone in his office!

In case you're the type who never reads the credits and you don't know who I am, I edit THE X-MEN, KA-ZAR, CONAN, SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, and KING CONAN, a fact that Jim neglected to mention last month when he wrote the intro for my Cheetfully Nice News Feature. Tch! He's forgiven — *this* time! Oh, and by the way, folks really do call me "Weezie" like it says under the picture.

As long as I'm writing this anyway, I guess I'll take the opportunity to clue you in on some current goings on down at my end of the Bullpen.

Guess, what. I get besides great art, fabulous stories and the worst case of Exhausted Editor Syndrome this side of editor Jim Salicrup's office? I get TROUBLE!

Take the X-MEN, for instance.

How, you might ask, can the good old X-Men be trouble? Actually, they're fine... but Professor Xavier is currently gathering a whole school full of lively new mutants demanding their own title! *That's* trouble! Chris Claremont will write it. Bob McLeod will pencil it. But who'll ink it? When'll it be on sale? And... what'll we call it?

And KA-ZAR has a new inker — Armando Gil — and a sensational new look! With a new super-villain in #12, a new marriage in #13, and a new 32-page format every issue, where's the trouble? Right about at Deadline Time. Sigh. *That's* trouble! There must be an unwritten law saying that such wonderful work can only be completed at 5:00 P.M. on Deadline Day!

Oh, well, the only way to cope with it all is to keep thinking cheerful thoughts!

Say, remember last issue's announcement about Production Paragon Ron Zalme's impending baby? Well, it's an 8 lb. 10 oz. girl named Jessica Lin! *That's* cheerful!

ME AGAIN...

How the heck did she find out about my crown? Oh, well. Speaking of feeling like a king, I sure felt that way a week or so ago when I returned to my office after a lengthy meeting with Fearless President Jim Galton and Peerless Publishing Veep Mike Hobson (we discussed our upcoming *move* to larger quarters!) to find a *surprise party* in honor of my birthday! And *what* a party! There was a Birthday Cake, naturally, plus food and drink to suit every taste, music, noise and laughter. Would you believe balloons and crepe paper streamers? In the midst of it all, a happy birthday *telegram* arrived from the Bullpen Crew — and get this, it was delivered by a beautiful young lady clad in naught but an itsy-bitsy bikini. They call it a Strip-o-Gram, I think. Very, um, *dramatic*. Not only that, the crew presented me with no less than *three* huge, handmade birthday cards covered with kind words, clever cartoons and signatures. Also (and I'm still in shock over this!) they gave me a truly incredible electronic Seiko watch with an alarm, stopwatch, timer, dual timer, calendar and, oh, yeah, it tells time, too. And it probably will walk the dog if you ask it. I've never owned a really fine watch before. I couldn't be more pleased — but, more, I'm just happy to be working with such wonderful, beautiful people. Some of them, especially the freelance creative folks, you know from the credits, but most of the staff people do their work behind the scenes. Who are these folks? I'm so glad you asked.

The Marvel Comics Staff

Joe Albelo, Art Production
Elliot Brown, Photostat Operator
Robbie Carosella, Photostat Operator
Danny Crespi, Art/Production Supervisor
Tom DeFalco, Editor
Danny Fingeroth, Asst. Editor
Alyce Gordon, Secretary
Linda Grant, Secretary
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Larry Hama, Editor
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Morrie Kuramoto, Art Production
Ralph Macchio, Asst. Editor
Nora Maclin, Designer
Al Milgrom, Senior Editor
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Jim Owsley, Asst. Editor
Rick Parker, Art Production
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George Roussos, Cover Colorist
Jim Salicrup, Editor
Barry Shapiro, Designer
Marian Stensgard, Typesetter
John Tartaglione, Artist
Lance Tooks, Asst. Editor
Andy Yanchus, Colorist
Ron Zalme, Asst. Art Production Supervisor

There are many more folks on staff here at Marvel of course — the EPIC crew, the Special Projects folks, the Foreign Licensing crew, the Mailroom gang, and still more, sadly way too many to list here, now. To all of you who made my 30th the happiest of my life, my deepest, sincerest thanks. You're the *best*!

BACK TO WORK!

A question I'm asked frequently these days is "...are Marvel and DC going to do any more crossovers?" By now you've seen the SUPERMAN-SPIDER-MAN TREASURY EDITION and the HULK-BATMAN TREASURY EDITION which went on sale last May and October, respectively. Coming up next year we have two more — X-MEN/TEEN TITANS SUPERSPECIAL and the AVENGERS-JLA SUPERSPECIAL. Dates will be announced as soon as we figure them out.

And now, for something completely different...

ARCHIE GOODWIN'S EPIC NEWSLINE!

According to our dictionary, *serendipity* is "the gift of finding valuable or agreeable things not sought for." It's not a word that comes up very often in the production of EPIC ILLUSTRATED. The valuable and agreeable in our particular visual odyssey is generally achieved through much seeking and searching, cajoling and coddling, and occasional threats of bodily harm or intense psychic damage. However, the big feature we're pounding the promotional drum for in EPIC #10 is serendipitous indeed. *Marada the She-Wolf* was created by X-MEN scribe, *Chris Claremont* and *John Bolton*, the talented British artist whose *King Kull* dazzled everyone in BIZARRE ADVENTURES #26, and was designed to be yet another issue-length project for that mag. With everything completed on *Marada* but the lettering, a scheduling shift left the feature without a home in BIZARRE ADVENTURES or anywhere else for the near future. Not one to let what he considers among his best work to languish, Chris approached us about running *Marada* in EPIC. Serendipity! John had even done a cover of their female warrior who pits sword against sorcery during the fading days of the Roman Empire. Since EPIC readers have been suggesting a Bolton cover ever since his full-color story, *The Lleihs*, appeared in issue #7, how could we turn it down? When serendipity finally does strike, we go with it all the way.

Archie Goodwin

AND AS THE SUN SINKS IN THE WEST...

Whoops! Out of space already. Oh, well. I'll be back in thirty. Until then, keep a warm smile; and stick with us. We're just now getting the hang of this business.

Shooter

THE HYPE BOX

FANTASTIC FOUR ROAST #1 — In celebration of the FF's and Marvel's 20th anniversaries, editor JIM SHOOTER and humorist FRED HEMBECK have come up with the perfect tribute to both. Over Fred's layouts, just about every artist at Marvel has had a shot at illustrating the characters they're most identified with, as the FF are guests of honor at a hero-studded banquet where they are "roasted" by their fellow Marvel stars.

GIANT SILVER SURFER #1 — STAN THE MAN himself is back to script this 48-page, no-ads special treat, which was plotted and penciled by JOHN BYRNE with inks and colors by TOM PALMER. The Surfer at last breaks free of his earthly exile — and returns to Zenn-La!

MARVEL FANFARE #1 — Comics the way you always dreamed they'd be presented — with no ads, in vivid colors, on slick, high-quality paper. The premiere issue of this publishing landmark will feature a tale of **Spider-Man** and the **Angel** in Ka-Zar's Savage Land — it's written by CHRIS CLAREMONT with pencils and inks by MICHAEL GOLDEN (who also did the cover).

EPIC ILLUSTRATED #10 — JOHN BOLTON is back — teamed up with CHRIS CLAREMONT — to present the debut of **Marada the She-Wolf**! Plus: **Weirdworld** by DOUG MOENCH, JOHN BUSCEMA, MARIE SEVERIN, and STEVE OLIFF and much more.

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

- ☐ **KA-ZAR #12** — Written by BRUCE JONES. Pencils by BRENT ANDERSON. Finishes by ARMANDO GIL.
- ☐ **MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #85** — The **Thing, Giant Man,** and **Spider-Woman!**
- ☐ **GIANT SILVER SURFER #1** — The Surfer's back in an all new tale by STAN LEE, JOHN BYRNE, and TOM PALMER.
- ☐ **DAZZLER #13**
- ☐ **KING CONAN #9**
- ☐ **SPIDEY SUPER STORIES #57** — Gaia last issue!
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #180**
- ☐ **DENNIS THE MENACE #6**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #39**
- ☐ **GHOST RIDER #66**
- ☐ **MOON KNIGHT #17**
- ☐ **THOR #317**
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #226**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #267**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #269**
- ☐ **AVENGERS #217**
- ☐ **CONAN #132**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #137** — Reprinting the origin and first appearance of **Spider-Man** by STAN LEE & STEVE DITKO from *Amazing Fantasy #15*!
- ☐ **X-MEN #155**
- ☐ **POWER MAN/IRON FIST #79**
- ☐ **ROM #28**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #240**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #115** — **Spider-Man** and the **Valkyrie** — together!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #156**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #64**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #105**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #57**
- ☐ **MASTER OF KUNG FU #110**
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR ROAST #1** — Written and layed out by FRED HEMBECK. Art by — *everybody!!*

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **CRAZY #83** — *Raiders of the Lost Argh; Teen Hulk;* RALPH REESE's *ABC Demise; Obnoxio; Kinetic Kids; and lots more!*
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #73**
- ☐ **MARVEL FANFARE #1** — The latest innovation from the House of Ideas (see Hype Box above for important details).
- ☐ **EPIC ILLUSTRATED #10** — The Visual Odyssey continues with contributions by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BOLTON, JOHN BUSCEMA, MARIE SEVERIN, and more (see Hype Box).

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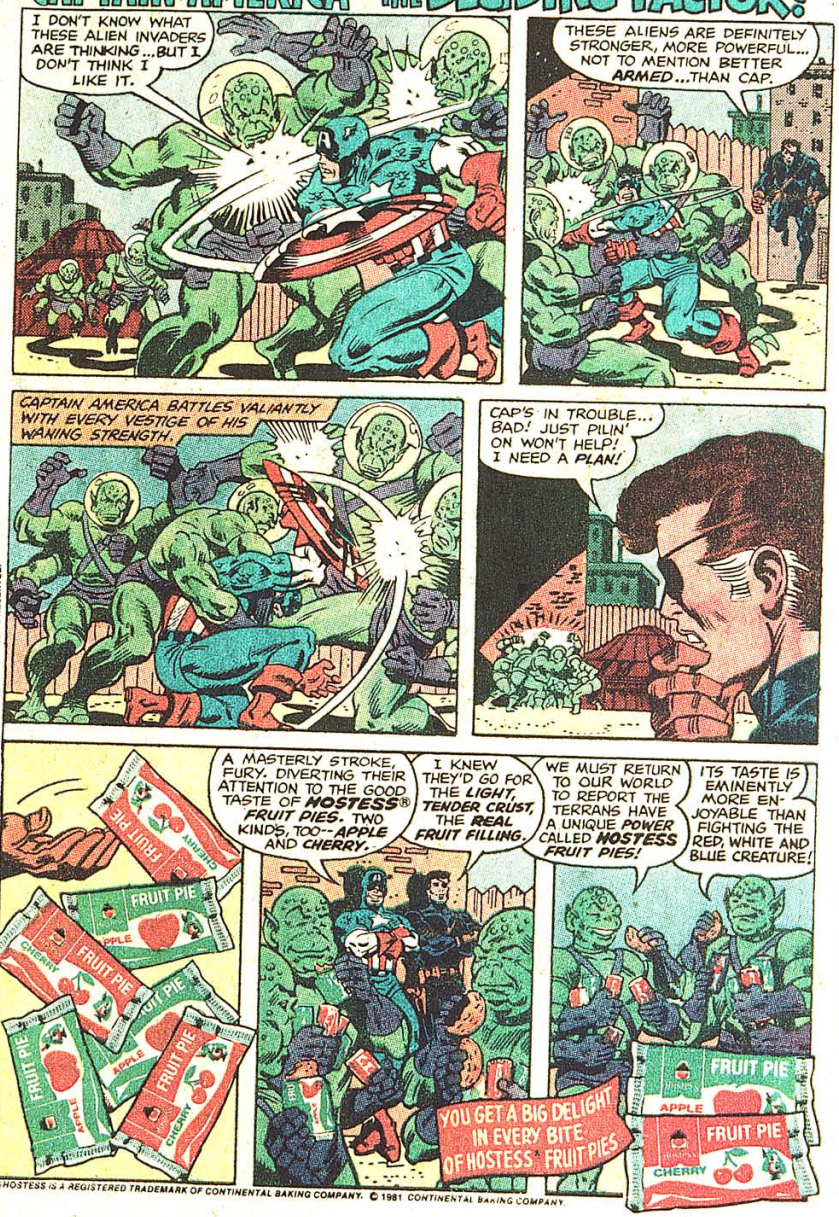

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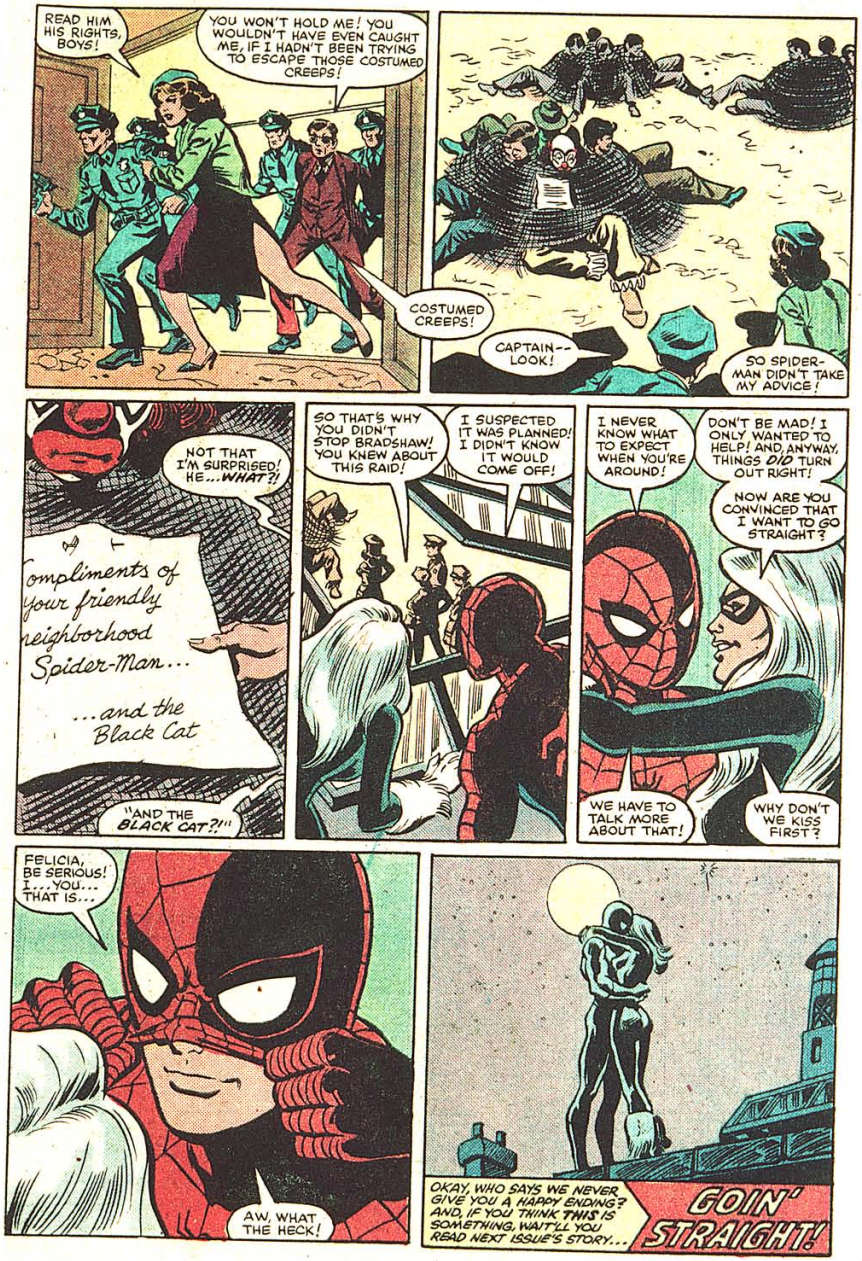

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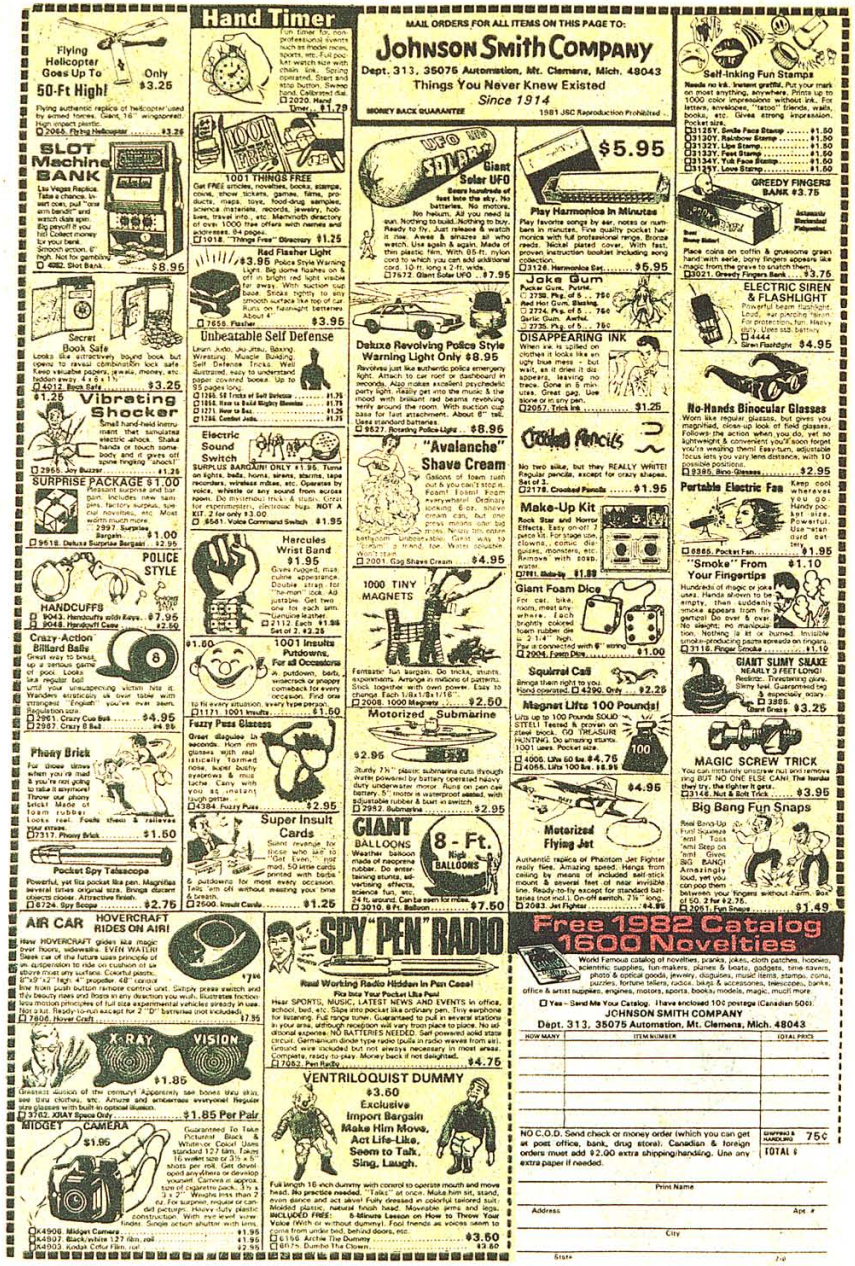

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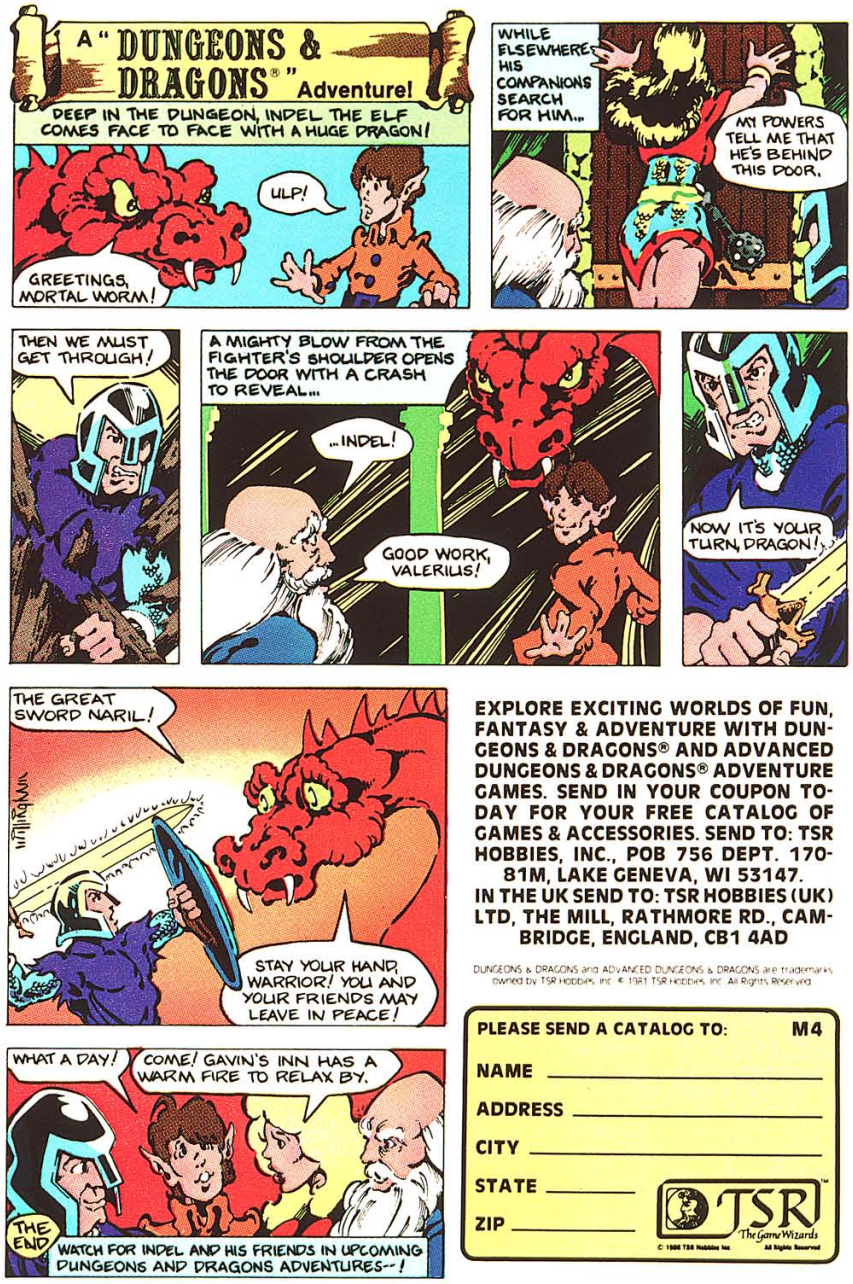

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